

Otero County Office

The Alamogordo News.

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PRICE 5 CENTS

THREE-YEAR HOMESTEAD BILL IS NOW A LAW OF THE LAND

**Passed by Both Houses and Signed by
The President**

**Will Give Big Impetus to Reclamation of Semi
Arid Lands**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section twenty-two hundred and ninety-one and section twenty-two hundred and ninety-seven of the Revised Statutes of the United States be amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 2291. No certificate, however, shall be given or patent issued therefor until the expiration of three years from the date of such entry; and if at the expiration of such time, or at any time within two years thereafter, the person making such entry, or if he be dead his widow, or in case of her death his heirs or devisee, or in case of a widow making such entry her heirs or devisee, in case of her death, proves by himself and by two credible witnesses that he, she, or they have a habitable house upon the land and have actually resided upon and cultivated the same for the term of three years succeeding the time of filing the affidavit, and makes affidavit that no part of such land has been alienated, except as provided in section twenty-two hundred and eighty-eight, and that he, she, or they will bear true allegiance to the Government of the United States, then in such case he, she, or they, if at that time citizens of the United States, shall be entitled to a patent, as in other cases provided by law: Provided, That upon filing in the local land office notice of the beginning of such absence, the entryman shall be entitled to a continuous leave of absence from the land for a period not exceeding five months in each year after establishing residence, and upon the termination of such absence the entryman shall file a notice of such termination in the local land office, but in case of commutation the fourteen months' actual residence as now required by law must be shown and the person commuting must be at the time a citizen of the United States: Provided, That when the person making entry dies before the offer of final proof those succeeding to the entry must show that the entryman had complied with the law in all respects to the date of his death, and that they have since complied with the law in all respects, as would have been required of the entryman had he lived, excepting that they are relieved from any requirement of residence upon the land: Provided further, That the entryman shall, in order to comply with the requirements of cultivation herein provided for, cultivate not less than one-sixteenth of the area of his entry, beginning with the second year

of the entry, and not less than one-eighth, beginning with the third year of the entry, and until final proof, except that in the case of entries under section six of the enlarged-homestead law double the area of cultivation herein provided shall be required, but the Secretary of the Interior may, upon a satisfactory showing, under rules and regulations prescribed by him, reduce the required area of cultivation: Provided, That the above provision as to cultivation shall not apply to entries under the Act of April twenty-eighth, nineteen hundred and four, commonly known as the Kinkaid Act, or entries under the Act of June seventeenth, nineteen hundred and two, commonly known as the reclamation Act, and that the provisions of this section relative to the homestead period shall apply to all unperfected entries as well as entries hereafter made upon which residence is required: Provided, That the Secretary of the Interior shall, within sixty days after the passage of this Act, send a copy of the same to each homestead entryman of record who may be affected thereby, by ordinary mail to his last known address, and any such entryman may, by giving notice within one hundred and twenty days after the passage of this Act, by registered letter to the register and receiver of the local land office, elect to make proof upon his entry under the law under which the same was made without regard to the provisions of this Act."

"SEC. 2297. If at any time after the filing of the affidavit as required in section twenty-two hundred and ninety-one, it is proved, after due notice to the settler, to the satisfaction of the register of the land office that the person having filed such affidavit has failed to establish residence within six months after the date of entry, or abandoned the land for more than six months after the date of entry, or abandoned the land for more than six months at any time, then and in that event the land so entered shall revert to the Government: Provided, That the three years' period of residence herein fixed shall date from the time of establishing actual permanent residence upon the land: And provided further, That where there may be climatic reasons, sickness, or other unavoidable cause, the Commissioner of the General Land office may in his discretion, allow the settler twelve months from the date of filing in which to commence his residence on said land under such rules and regulations as he may prescribe."

Col. D. W. Wood has opened an office for the practice of law, at the solicitation of friends. His office is in his residence on Vermont avenue between Tenth and Eleventh streets.

Mrs. Byron A. Lomas, son and daughter and a sister, Miss Pearl Marrs, arrived Thursday night. They have rented the Stanley Phillips residence on Tenth street.

GOVERNMENT REPORTS IN THE PUBLIC LIBRARY

**Secured Through the Influence of
Senator Fall**

SAMUEL HOLMES SOLICITED GIFT

**Interesting and Valuable Works
Of Reference**

Our library recently received a valuable lot of government reports and charts, for which it is indebted to Senator A. B. Fall. These reports, charts and maps are not only interesting, but valuable and reliable references and ought to make fine reading for the summer afternoons, as the library is as pleasant and cool a place as can be found in town. Mr. Samuel Holmes was instrumental in bringing about this fine donation for the library, for which many thanks are due him.

The following is a partial list of the publications received:

U. S. Geological Survey, parts 1, 2, 3, 4;
Treasury Annual Reports, 1911;
U. S. Department of Agriculture, 1909, with maps;
Eleventh Report;
Federal Anti Trust Decisions, Vols. 1, 2, 3, 4;
Twenty-seventh Annual Report of Animal Industry, 1910;
Navy Year Book, 1910;
Report of Secretary of the Navy, 1911;
American Nautical Almanac, Jan. 1912;
Congressional Directory, April, 1912;
Commerce and Finance, U. S., Jan. 1912;
Wool and Manufactures of Wool, Vols. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5;
Army Register, Jan. 1912;
Navy and Marine Corps Register, Jan. 1912;
Report of the Employers' Liability and Workmen's Compensation Commission, Vols. 1, 2.
The public is cordially invited to make frequent use of this library.

W. H. Land of Tularosa was here Thursday afternoon looking after business matters.

THE CONVENTION AT CHICAGO

The republican national convention which will nominate candidates for the offices of president and vice-president, was called to order Tuesday morning in the Coliseum at Chicago. It is perhaps the greatest convention in the history of this nation, in point of excitement and world-wide interest. The events leading up to the convention, through an unparalleled campaign ending with a turbulent session of the national committee, were without precedent. As one writer has expressed it, if the situation was tense with excitement during the meeting of the national committee, it became explosive with the opening of the convention.

Practically all of the contests filed by the Roosevelt forces had been decided by the national committee in favor of Mr. Taft. When the convention was called to order Tuesday morning, whatever advantage there was lay with the Taft forces.

MOTION PICTURES NOW SIX NIGHTS A WEEK

**New Alamo Theatre Shows Turn
Of Enterprise**

TWELVE FINE REELS EVERY WEEK

**Two New Films With One Old
One Every Night**

The best motion picture show service that Alamogordo has ever had, and one that will compare favorably with city service, was inaugurated Monday evening at the New Alamo Theatre, and will be continued until further notice.

Some time ago Mr. Woodworth manager, reduced the number of show nights from six to three putting on three new films on Monday, Thursday and Saturday nights. The retrenchment was made necessary on account of the beginning of the hot weather, and the consequent falling off in patronage. More recently there have been indications that a good show every night would be well supported, and since a way to ventilate and cool the building has been proved practicable, Mr. Woodworth decided to make the venture.

Under the new arrangement, the film service has been increased from nine to twelve films shown every week. Two new films, with one film which was shown the previous night, will be put on every night except Sunday. In selecting the picture to be run the second night, the most pleasing and popular reel will be used.

Two shows will be given each night, just as under the old arrangement, but the time of beginning has been changed from 7:30 and 8:30 p. m., to 8:00 and 9:00 p. m. While the days are so long, 7:30 if just a little early for nearly all of the people to get in time for the first part of the first reel. A good many people who appreciate first class motion pictures are commending Mr. Woodworth for his enterprise, and hope that the support will be sufficient to maintain a change of pictures every night.

PROPOSITION AS SUBMITTED TO BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

**Board Asked to Open County Printing
For Competitive Bids**

**County Would Have Derived Benefit Whoever
Secured Contract**

The Alamogordo News

GUTHRIE SMITH, Editor and Publisher

Alamogordo, N. M., Feb. 29, 1912.

THE HONORABLE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS,
Otero County, Alamogordo, New Mexico.
GENTLEMEN:—

The purpose of this communication is to present a proposition which, if accepted, will be the means of saving several hundred dollars a year for the tax payers of this county. I know that the members of the board, personally as well as officially, are deeply interested in making this administration one with a high standard of prudence, economy and efficiency, and that it is the earnest desire to secure for the county the maximum of benefits with the minimum of expense.

The board has designated one of the Otero county newspapers as the official paper of the board. The chairman of the board has informed me that this action was in strict conformity with the law governing, and I have every reason to accept the chairman's statement. The selection of the official paper was made at the first meeting of the present board, when the organization was effected. Up to that time The News had not asked to be considered as an applicant, for the reason that I did not have the remotest idea that such action was contemplated. My belief that no immediate action was contemplated was based upon the fact that heretofore the board of this county had followed the custom of advertising for bids, and the designation of official paper given to the successful bidder of the public printing.

What The News has to offer and suggest is this: If your honorable body will accept bids, both on the county printing and the legal publications, The News will guarantee to reduce those bills fifty per cent., as compared with the cost of the past three years. Is your honorable body interested in reducing the printing and publishing bills of Otero county fifty per cent. for the benefit of the tax payers?

By reference to your record it will be observed that in the past three years the bills for printing and publishing have totaled nearly \$2,000.00, which does not include the publication of the delinquent tax list for 1911. If the bid which The News made three years ago had been accepted, the county would have saved, according to your record, a very substantial sum of money.

The claim frequently has been set up in this county that the board had not the right to have the delinquent tax list published at a rate lower than the one specified by law, for the reason that there was no means of disposing of the funds which would accrue to the treasury under such a course. Other counties of New Mexico have been, and are, having their tax lists published at a rate much lower than the maximum which is allowed by the statute, and appear to have no trouble in disposing of the funds so accruing.

There is enclosed herewith a certified copy of the Attorney General's opinion, dated February 19th, 1912. You will observe that it is that officer's opinion that it would be legal and valid to have the delinquent tax list published at a rate just as low as could possibly be secured.

I respectfully and earnestly ask that you give our offer your serious consideration. I mean just what I say: That under the course suggested, it will be possible for you to cut your publishing bills in half, thus saving to the county several hundred dollars every year. We can furnish any bond that may be required.

Respectfully submitted,

GUTHRIE SMITH,

Editor and Publisher.

The foregoing letter contains the proposition with reference to the county printing, which was submitted to the board of county commissioners. The letter was presented by the writer and some additional explanations were made. It was my pleasure to say to the commissioners, clearly and unmistakably that The News did not hope or believe that necessarily the contract would be awarded to The News, but that whoever secured the contract the tax payers of the county would derive the benefit of the reduced rate.

It will be observed that there is no lack of respect in the request which was made, that the members of the board were given the benefit of every doubt. "Nothing before the board" was the decision of the board.

GUTHRIE SMITH

Mr. and Mrs. Chas. P. Downs returned Sunday afternoon from Santa Fe, where Mr. Downs represented Otero county in the first state legislature. They drove through in the car, coming by Roswell and Lincoln.

Mrs. G. F. Rousseau and the baby returned Saturday morning after visiting Oklahoma and Kansas points.

J. C. Jones spent Monday and Tuesday at his ranch in James canon.